

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. The outstanding Office action has been carefully considered, and the following remarks are respectfully submitted in response thereto.

Claims 1-3 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by Leon et al. (US Patent No. 6,119,210). Claims 4-12 and 14-20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over Leon et al. in light of at least one of Fujimori (US Patent No. 6,788,567), Hongo et al. (US Pending Publication No. 20020129195), and Kwon et al. (US Patent No. 6,556,504). These grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections:

Claim 1 requires a "detection circuit being capable of being turned on and off by a control signal from a control terminal." Leon et al., on the other hand discloses a VCC_LOW_DETECT circuit, which is a detection circuit, and a TEMPO circuit, which has a flip-flop circuit 12. The TEMPO circuit, however, is not capable of turning on or off the VCC_LOW_DETECT circuit. In fact, both the TEMPO circuit and the VCC_LOW_DETECT circuit send signals to a NOR type logic gate 5, and do not communicate with each other. Furthermore, the Examiner uses an internal component of the TEMPO circuit to describe the "control signal detecting circuit." Additionally, the Examiner uses the TEMPO circuit to describe the "control terminal." Since the control terminal emits the control signal the internal component is incapable of detecting the control signal.

It is well settled that "a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Since Leon et al. does not disclose a "detection circuit being

capable of being turned on and off by a control signal from a control terminal" or "a control signal detecting circuit," it does not anticipate Claims 1-3 or 13.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections:

The rejection of claim 4 as being unpatentable over Leon in view of Fujimori et al is traversed. Claim 4 depends from claim 3 and includes all the limitations thereof. The Office action states that it would have been obvious to have included "inverters and threshold levels," presumably in the circuit of Leon, "because this would allow for data be held correctly." This ground of rejection is traversed. First, the rejection is deficient on its face because it fails to explain precisely what is being proposed to be modified in Leon by purporting to include "inverters and threshold levels." Therefore a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been set forth, and this ground of rejection is thus untenable. Second, because Fujimori fails to compensate for the limitations missing from Leon with respect to claim 3, as demonstrated above, no addition of Fujimori to Leon could result in the invention set forth in claim 4. Fujimori discloses a data holding device and method whereby data can be held even when a power source is interrupted, but does not disclose a "detection circuit being capable of being turned on and off by a control signal from a control terminal" or "a control signal detecting circuit" as required by claim 1. Thus, no combination of Fujimori with Leon could result in the invention of claim 4, and this ground of rejection should be withdrawn on this additional basis.

The rejection of claims 5 and 14 as being unpatentable over Leon in view of Fujimori and Hongo et al. also is traversed. The Office action alleges that it would have been obvious "to include a resettable mode control register because this would allow for rewriting and discontinuing rewriting operations" as taught by Hongo. As with the rejection of claim 4 above, this statement fails to establish a *prima facie* case as it not explained exactly what is proposed to be modified or added to what circuit in Leon or Fujimori to allegedly arrive at the invention of claims and 14. Hongo discloses a microcomputer system with a flash memory wherein a value written to a control signal register is applied to a power supply circuit and a memory decoder in the flash memory to

process "erase" and "program" functions of the flash memory. As such, Hongo fails to cure the deficiencies of Leon and Fujimori as explained above.

Claims 6-12 and 15-20 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Leon et al., Fujimori, Hongo et al., and Kwon et al. These grounds of rejection also are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that Kwon discloses a standby control signal. However, the present invention calls for "a standby control signal from a standby control register." (see Claim 8) Kwon only discloses "when the sensed data of the memory cell is stored in the page buffer circuit 360, the NAND-type flash memory device enters STANDBY state from BUSY state to output the temporarily stored data of the memory cell to exterior of the memory device." (col. 13, lines 31-32) Not only does Kwon not disclose where the standby signal comes from, but it also does not disclose that there is actually a standby signal. It merely discloses that the "device enters STANDBY."

Furthermore, as stated above, Leon et al. does not disclose a "low-voltage detection circuit being turned on and off by a standby control signal from a standby control register" as required by Claims 8 and 20. Additionally, as explained above, neither Fujimori nor Hongo make up for the shortcomings of Leon with respect to the claimed invention.


It is well settled that the mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. See, e.g., MPEP 2143.01 ("The mere fact that the references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination."); *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680,682, 16 USPQ2d 1430, 1432 (Fed. Cir. 1990)(fact that prior art "may be capable of being modified to run the way the apparatus is claimed, there must be some suggestion or motivation in the reference to do so."). In the present case, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no motivation to combine the above cited references.

In addition, even if the above cited references were combined, the further modification of having a "low-voltage detection circuit being turned on and off by a standby control signal from a standby control register" is necessary. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 8, 15, and 20 and the claims that depend from claims 8, 15 and 20 are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims, namely Claims 1-20, are patentable over the references of record, and earnestly solicits allowance of the same.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration of this application and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
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